(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional sources of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(viii) Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas hydrates Programmes (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

(e) Government has not earmarked any special contingency fund for exploration activities.

(f) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (e) above.

Action against LPG distributors in Uttar Pradesh

1988. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributors in each State particularly in Uttar Pradesh company-wise and location-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received against these distributors during the last two years in each State, particularly in U.P.; and

(c) the number of distributors against whom the complaints have been received alongwith the number of distributorship cancelled on the basis of these complaints during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 01.02.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 9354 LPG distributorships in the country including 1173 LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The State-wise details of LPG distributors is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

The location-wise details of LPG distributorships are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

(b) Since 01.04.2006 and upto January, 2008, OMCs have received 1986 complaints against their LPG distributorships in the country. Out of the above, 297 complaints pertain to LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The State-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

(c) Complaints have been received against 388 LPG distributors of OMCs in the country since 01.04.2006 and up to January 2008. Out of above, 42 LPG distributors pertain to Uttar Pradesh.

Action against erring distributors has been taken by OMCs in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement. During the period from 1.4.2006 and up to January, 2008, OMCs have terminated 73 LPG distributorships in the country, including 7 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

State-wise details of LPG distributor as on 01.02.2008

Figs in Nos.

State/U.T.	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total
Andhra Pradesh	376	199	302	877
Andaman & Nicobar	4	0	0	4
Arunachal Pradesh	30	0	0	30
Assam	227	15	9	251
Bihar	188	70	51	309
Chandigarh	19	4	5	28
Chhattisgarh	81	27	45	153
Dadra & N.H.	0	0	1	1
Daman & Diu	0	0	2	2
Delhi	194	77	45	316
Goa	8	17	28	53
Gujarat	310	114	118	542
Haryana	143	79	55	277
Himachal Pradesh	89	12	18	119
Jammu & Kashmir	75	16	61	152
Jharkhand	88	27	27	142
Karnataka	216	111	161	488
Kerala	200	100	74	374
Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1
Madhya Pradesh	294	130	143	567
Maharashtra	235	365	395	995
Manipur	31	0	0	31
Meghalaya	32	0	0	32
Mizoram	25	0	0	25
Nagaland	27	0	0	27
Orissa	78	37	70	185
Puducherry	9	4	5	18

State/U.T.	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total
Punjab	250	98	71	419
Rajasthan	203	114	112	429
Sikkim	7	0	0	7
Tamil Nadu	389	149	122	660
Tripura	29	0	0	29
Uttar Pradesh	706	279	188	1173
Uttarakhand	131	17	18	166
W. Bengal	293	74	105	472
ALL INDIA	4988	2135	2231	9354

Promotion of religious and rural tourism

1989. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being envisaged to promote religious and rural tourism in the country;

(b) whether there is any promotional scheme to provide more funds particularly to those backward regions that have immense potential of tourism;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider providing funds to a poor State like Bihar that has immense potential of religious tourism since it has famous religious places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and funds to be provided, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistances to States/ Union Territories for development and promotion of tourist destinations and circuits including religious and rural tourism sites on the basis of project proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

The Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 59240.12 lakh for 248 projects in the country during the current financial year upto February, 2008. Out of this Rs. 785.82 lakh has been sanctioned for 2 projects in Bihar.

Road map for tourism promotion

1990. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any road map for tourism promotion has been drawn up for deveopment in the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage of hotels/accommodation and infrastructural facilities in important tourist circuits in the country?